

WILCOX COUNTY

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Trina Nicholson
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Tokka Boggan
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Lauretha McConnico
Doris Mason
Clara Gulley
Ethel Parham
Rev. Paul
Anthony Rutledge
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Council Priorities

1. Early Care and Education

2. Parental Education and Training

3. Economic Security

Issues

Issues are the primary concerns or problems facing children in the county

Early Care Education

Children (0 – 5) are provided opportunities to fully develop emotionally, socially, physically, and cognitively and are ready to succeed.

Lack of readiness of children to begin school studies

Action Steps

- 1) Seek funding for Early Start, Even Start and enlarged Head Start programs.
- 2) Seek funding for extended day programs, and include early childcare and education programs within our One Stop Youth Development Centers.

Pre-Kindergarten

Action Steps

- 1) Encourage faith based organizations and churches to develop daycare centers within their churches or organizations.
- 2) Advocate through local bodies of government for the establishment of a comprehensive countywide daycare center.
- 3) Advocate and seek funding for permanent housing for youth to have a place to stay, be safe, study, learn and feel nurtured.

Economic Security

Children grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs can be met.

Children should grow up in a financially stable home where the child's basic needs are met

Action Steps

- 1) Work to inform the public of job opportunities.
- 2) Encourage small business development and expansion.
- 3) Establish stability and consistency with the employment service agency.
- 4) Collaborate with Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission to provide transportation for citizens to work in other areas.
- 5) Work with the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Agency to seek employers to relocate to our county.

Job training

Action Steps

- 1) Support efforts of the summer employment program for youth.
- 2) Work with the Juvenile and District court to direct those who appear to job readiness programs, GED programs, and Job Corps.

Vocational education

Action Steps

- 1) Work with the Board of Education to develop a comprehensive vocational education program that will provide the needed training for a child to graduate from high school and secure solid employment.
- 2) Sponsor forums, workshops, and other developmental programs to help youth develop leadership skills, work skills, interviewing skills, and success oriented skills.

Education

Children learn the skills necessary to become productive citizens.

Students cannot read or write at grade level, including lack of parental involvement and students are promoted to the next grade without being able to adequately complete coursework of current grade

Action Steps

- 1) Council will support efforts to provide school readiness programs for all children who need these important services.

Literacy

Action Steps

- 1) Council will support programs in communities that promote literacy among our school age and adult population.
- 2) Work with board of education to seek school social workers in each school.
- 3) Encourage parents to read to their children and develop an early library similar to Dolly's Imagination Library.

After school enrichment

Action Steps

- 1) Council will seek funding and support programs located in our communities that provide after school enrichment for our youth.

Health

Children's (0 - 19) physical and mental well-being in the county.

Pregnancy prevention

Action Steps

- 1) The council will provide abstinence based programs for grades 6-12.
- 2) Provide public awareness campaign, and classes divided by gender to address pregnancy prevention and related issues.

Substance abuse prevention

Action Steps

- 1) Council will seek intervention programs with our local mental health center for those engaged in substance abuse.
- 2) Will cooperate with the Substance Prevention Coalition to raise awareness of health issues surrounding alcohol and substance abuse among our children.

General health issues for children

Action Steps

- 1) Provide information in cooperation with the public health office to lower children obesity.
- 2) Seek funding for the County's One Stop Youth Development centers that will provide a wealth of opportunities for recreation activities.
- 3) Work to identify and utilize transportation resources for those in need.

Parent Involvement Skills

Parents and guardians participation and effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible and independent adults.

Increase participation by parents and guardians to increase their effectiveness in fostering an environment for children to become mature, responsible, and independent adults, while the children feel safe, nurtured, and encouraged in their home, school, and community environment

Action Steps

- 1) Parents will be encouraged by public service campaign to provide adequate supervision for their children, including checking their homework, visiting schools, and supervising youth after school.

Parental attitudes favoring anti-social behavior

Action Steps

- 1) Refer parents to Cahaba Mental Health for parenting classes.
- 2) Provide parenting classes when our One Stop Center is developed.
- 3) Promote and encourage parental involvement through school and church oriented programs.
- 4) Host workshops that will teach attitudes that favor correct social behavior.

Poor family discipline

Action Steps

- 1) Collaborate with agencies to teach parents good discipline methods and work with youth to understand the need for discipline.

Safety

Children live free of abuse, neglect, crime, and drugs.

Fear of violence in the schools and at home

Action Steps

- 1) Support the local tax measure to keep our local hospital in operation.
- 2) Support anger management programs and intervention programs with our local mental health center.
- 3) The district court will provide mandatory classes for those who come before it charged with domestic violence.
- 4) Will work with title 1 to develop conflict resolution youth programs and will host youth violence prevention week long campaign.
- 5) Peer mediation for juvenile court.

Mental health concerns for juvenile delinquents

Action Steps

- 1) Work with the juvenile court and juvenile probation officer to identify youth who are in need of mental health services.
- 2) Provide transportation when needed, and seek opportunities for recreation.

Youth violence and bullying

Action Steps

- 1) Support the efforts of the Dixie youth program.
- 2) Collaborate to sponsor youth anti-violence forums and sponsor child abuse prevention programs.
- 3) Support youth intervention programs such as peer mediation.

Policy Recommendations

No Policy Recommendations submitted